

The cup that cheers



AT the moment it reaches 212 degrees Fahrenheit, Sam Twining takes the kettle he had filled with fresh, cold water off the boil and pours it carefully over the tea leaves. 'In the morning,' he was telling me, 'I will start with bright and brisk English breakfast tea. After lunch, I will have a cup of Darjeeling - a mellow, rounded drink. If the afternoon is especially hot, I will have a cup of Lapsang Souchong which has a smoky taste from being

smoked over oak chips. If the afternoon is warm, I will have a cup of Earl Grey,' the bergamot-flavoured tea first blended for the Earl by Sam Twining's forebear - some 150 years ago. 'If it is cold and miserable I'll probably have a cup of Assam which is rich and malty. And, if the weather is really awful, I'll have a cup of Vintage Darjeeling, which has a muscatel flavour.' And so Twining's day progresses, a cup of tea never far

from the hand of a man whose family have been teamen ever since they went into the business 'as a gimmick' nine generations ago in 1706.

Another cup of low-caffeine Earl Grey at night. A cup of rose Pouchong, which is sprinkled with real rose petals, if he happens to be at home in the evening. Fine black Russian Caravan, so named after the caravan route that first bore it out of China - after red wine. Oolong - to tea what rosé is to wine - after white. 'As a complement, to enhance the flavours,' he explained.

The comparison with wine is a reasonable one. Having found a way 5,000 years ago of making water more palatable by infusing it with leaves of the *thea sinensis* plant, the Chinese went on to discover that tea, like the grape, draws its taste and character from the soil in which it grows. And for all those intervening years, men have been transporting it, growing it and blending it in search of the perfect cup for the occasion.

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Sentence structure

- A** The first sentence in the text contains two careless errors. Can you spot them yourself? A word is missing from three of these sentences. Put it in and consider why you have done so.
- At the moment reaches 212 degrees Fahrenheit, Sam Twining takes the kettle he had filled with fresh, cold water off the boil and pours it carefully over the tea leaves. (ll. 1-6)
 - 'In the morning,' he was telling me, 'will start with bright and brisk English breakfast tea.' (ll. 6-8)
 - 'If the afternoon is especially hot, I will have a cup of Lapsang Souchong which has a smoky taste from being smoked over oak chips.' (ll. 10-14)
 - 'If is cold and miserable I'll probably have a cup of Assam which is rich and malty.' (ll. 19-21)
- B** Replace or delete the word or words in *italics*. Then refer to the text.
- When* it reaches 212 degrees Fahrenheit, Sam Twining takes the kettle *which* he had filled with fresh, cold water off the boil. (ll. 1-5)
 - 'When* the afternoon is especially hot, I *will* have a cup of Lapsang Souchong which has a smoky taste *because it was* smoked over oak chips.' (ll. 10-14)
 - And so Twining's day progresses, a cup of tea never far from the hand of *the man*. *His* family have been teamen *from the time* they went into the business in 1706. (ll. 25-31)
 - Fine black Russian Caravan, *named like this* after the caravan route. (ll. 36-38)
 - 'As a complement, *in order to enhance* the flavours,' he explained. (ll. 41-42)

Grammar points

- C** Break this sentence down into two sentences, then explain the use of *being*:
Lapsang Souchong has a smoky taste from being smoked over oak chips. (ll. 12–14)

Join these sentences using the words in brackets.

- 1 The laundry has a nice fresh smell. It was dried in the sun. (from)
The laundry has a nice fresh smell from being dried in the sun.
- 2 The children make their own beds. They aren't told to. (without)
- 3 The engine of this car will soon be worn out. It's driven too hard. (from)
- 4 John retired immediately. He was informed he would get a full pension. (on)
- 5 Jane decided to have an operation. She was examined by a specialist. (after)
- 6 It's the price he has to pay. He wasn't taught how to work when he was a boy. (for)

- D** What does *some* mean in these two sentences?

- a *When I visited Sam Twining, he immediately offered me **some** tea.*
- b *Earl Grey was first blended by Sam Twining's forebear – **some** 150 years ago.* (ll. 16–19)

Suggest meanings for *some* in these sentences.

- 1 Jim and his wife retired *some* years ago and moved to Brighton.
- 2 There were *some* 400 noisy people protesting against the new tax.
- 3 Surely there must be *some* person in this country who can read Sanskrit.
- 4 He's a professor at the age of 25 – that's *some* achievement!
- 5 You've broken four plates drying the dishes – that's *some* help, I must say.
- 6 I hear you've joined *some* club or other.
- 7 We've had a good crop of apples this year. Would you like *some*?
- 8 The programme you want to watch began *some* minutes ago.

several

- E** Compare the meanings of the verb phrases in bold italics in these three sentences.

- a *He has a cup of rose Pouchong if **he is** at home in the evening.*
- b *He has a cup of rose Pouchong if **he happens to be** at home in the evening.* (see ll. 33–36)
- c *He has a cup of rose Pouchong if **it happens that he's** at home in the evening.*

Rewrite each sentence in two ways using the verb *happen*.

- 1 You're always rude about John's pictures, but *he's* a successful portrait painter.
 a *You're always rude about John's pictures, but **he happens to be** a successful portrait painter.*
 b *You're always rude about John's pictures, but **it happens that** he's a successful portrait painter.*
- 2 Joanna isn't late. She hasn't come in to work today because *she's* ill.
 a
 b
- 3 I'm not a football fan, but I go to matches because *I live* next door to the stadium.
 a
 b
- 4 *It's* my pen you've just put into your pocket.
 a
 b